least on the side of bushing 11 remote from the fork 6. The hook of the rim 32 should overlap the bushing 11 at least to the extent that, when wear occurs and free play results it will not drop out. At the other end of the bushing 11 a retaining projection 32.1 can be provided which holds the bushing 11 in place in the other axial direction.

On Page 12, please amend the second full paragraph as follows:

The guide 37 is preferably injection molded directly into the ball 5. The variant in Figures 9b and 9a shows in longitudinal and cross section an additional preferred possibility for a damping compensation of free play in the unbiased state. The plastic sliding guide 37 is provided in its outer wall area with a plastic spring 39, which permits sliding without free play under bias V. The spring 39 is preferably made in one piece with the plastic guide 37, the spring being preferably slotted 40 so that it can breathe radially and being in contact with the inside surface of the tumbler guide 30 in a wear and tolerance equalizing manner. In Figure 10 the same plastic sliding guide as in Figure 9 is shown in the installed state. The tolerance gaps A, B, which the spring spans with respect to the tumbler guide 30, are shown schematically.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 20, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 30 and 38 as follows **(a marked-up version of the amended claims is attached hereto)**:

20. (Amended) Steering shaft universal double joint for motor vehicles with shaft ends fastened against rotation in the joint, these ends being held for movement in a housing joining the two joints and the shaft ends being joined together between the two joints by a ball joint so that a ball, connected to one of the shaft ends, is mounted for rotation about a center point of the ball in a socket of the other shaft end and is slidingly movable in the direction of the shaft axis of the other shaft end, wherein the socket is resiliently pivotably mounted to the other shaft end.

21. (Amended) Joint according to claim 20, further comprising:

a slide bushing held by the socket, the slide bushing being enveloped at least partially by the socket and being disposed between the ball and the socket.

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23. (Twice amended) Joint according to claim 21,

wherein the resiliently pivotably mounting of the socket in the other shaft end includes metal springs.

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25. (Amended) Joint according to claim 23,

wherein the plate springs are biased against the socket, so that the shaft axis, when in the unstressed position, is aligned with the axis of the socket.

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27. (Amended) Joint according to claim 20,

wherein the bushing is slotted such that the bushing is resiliently movable in a radial direction.

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29. (Amended) Joint according to claim 21,

wherein in an end portion of a fork, an annular chamber is formed to accommodate a pre-biased spring disposed between a first flange on the fork side and a second flange on the socket, so that the socket can tumble resiliently about the shaft axis in case of radial action by a force.

30. (Amended) Joint according to claim 21,

wherein the bushing is held in an axial direction at at least one end by the socket by a rim or by claws.

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38. (Amended) Joint according to claim 20,

wherein the universal joint contains a homokinetic joint.

Please add the following new claims:

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39. (New) Joint according to claim 23,

wherein the metal springs include plate springs.

40. (New) Joint according to claim 21,

wherein the socket is resiliently supported in the axial direction.

41. (New) Joint according to claim 21,

wherein the slide bushing is resiliently held by the socket.

42. (New) Joint according to claim 38,

wherein the homokinetic joint is a constant velocity joint.

43. (New) Joint according to claim 38,

wherein the homokinetic joint is a cross joint.

44. (New) A steering shaft universal double joint for motor vehicles, comprising:

two shaft ends;

two joints, each shaft end being connected to one of the joints;

a housing joining the two joints; and

a socket and a ball joint disposed in the socket, the shaft ends being joined together between the two joints by the ball joint and socket, wherein the ball joint is associated with one of the shaft ends and is able to rotate in the socket, and wherein the socket is resiliently pivotably connected to the other shaft end.

45. (New) The joint according to claim 44, further comprising:

a bushing disposed between the ball joint and the socket, wherein the bushing is resiliently disposed in the socket.

46. (New) The joint according to claim 44,

wherein the socket is resiliently supported in the axial direction by the other shaft end.

47. (New) The joint according to claim 45, further comprising:

a bushing disposed between the ball joint and the socket, wherein the bushing is resiliently disposed in the socket.

48. (New) The joint according to claim 45, further comprising:

a spring, wherein the socket is resiliently pivotably mounted to the other shaft end using the spring, and the spring biases the socket to a position where an axis of the socket is aligned with an axis of the other shaft end.

49. (New) The joint according to claim 48,

wherein the socket is resiliently supported in the axial direction by the spring.

50. (New) The joint according to claim 47,

wherein the bushing is slotted such that the bushing is resiliently movable in a radial direction within the socket.

51. (New) The joint according to claim 50,

wherein the bushing envelops the ball in a wear- and tolerance-equalizing manner, the bushing being installed in the socket with zero clearance.

52. (New) The joint according to claim 44, further comprising:

a slotted and tapered plastic sleeve disposed between the bushing and the socket.

53. (New) The joint according to claim 44, further comprising:

a plastic sliding guide disposed between the socket and the ball such that the plastic sliding guide receives the ball for rotational movement and is carried for sliding movement in the axial direction by the socket

54. (New) The joint according to claim 53,

wherein the sliding guide is injection-molded directly onto the ball.

55. (New) The joint according to claim 53,

wherein the plastic sliding guide is enveloped in an outer wall area by a pre-biased plastic spring which slides in the socket, the plastic spring having slots in a circumference of the spring, so that the plastic spring can breathe in the radial direction.

56. (New) The joint according to claim 44,

wherein the other shaft end includes an annular chamber containing a spring disposed between a first flange on the side of the other shaft and a second flange on the socket, so that the socket can tumble resiliently about the shaft axis when subjected to a radial force.

(Applicant's Remarks are set forth hereinbelow, starting on the following page.)